

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 17 December 1952

SUBJECT Drilling Operation for Crude Oil at  
Ruedersdorf-Kalkberge

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1. Since early 1951, a drilling operation for crude oil has been under way at Ruedersdorf-Kalkberge directly east of Greater Berlin. A steel derrick, 35 meters high, was set up over the drill hole in the summer of 1951.
2. The drilling operation has been supervised from the beginning by Soviet engineers. In March 1951, billets were provided in Ruedersdorf for 53 Soviet engineers, who, however, failed to arrive. Instead, about 30 Soviet engineers, wearing uniforms, came to the drilling site daily from the direction of Friedrichshafen (N 53/V Oh) from March to mid-September 1951. In August 1952, the drilling site was inspected once a week by two Soviet engineers for underground construction and two Soviet drilling foremen. Soviet soldiers guarded the well. German Volkspolizei personnel occasionally patrolled a wide area around the drilling sites.
3. The drilling was done by the Wismut Corporation in cooperation with the Geologisches Institut der DDR (Geological Institute of East Germany). The personnel of the Wismut Corporation at the drilling site included Oberingenieur (head engineer) Kuetter (fmu), who was in charge of the drilling operation, 2 German drilling foremen, and 30 to 35 German drillers. All the German personnel lived near the drilling site. In addition, there were 1 geologist from the Geological Institute and 2 Russian interpreters. Work was performed in three shifts.
4. The drill hole reached 485 meters on 22 December 1951, 550 meters on 15 February 1952 and 728 meters on 9 April 1952, when the drill head hit a salt layer. One of the German foremen said that the drill hole reached a depth of 1,367 meters by early August 1952. The drilling operation is allegedly to be continued to a depth of 3,600 meters.

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